

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Prior to entry of this response, Claims 1-30 were pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 8, and 19 are independent. In the Office Action dated April 20, 2005, Claims 1-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Following this response, Claims 1-30 remain in this application. Applicants hereby address the Examiner's rejections in turn.

I. Rejection of the Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

In the Office Action dated April 20, 2005, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,711,608 ("*Ogilvie*"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection with respect to Claims 1 and 19. Claim 8 has been amended, and Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment overcomes this rejection and adds no new matter. Support for the amendment to Claim 8 may be found at least on page 14, lines 9-24.

Claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the cited art for at least the reason that it recites, for example, "destroying all instances of the self-destructing electronic mail message after the time period has elapsed." Moreover, amended Claim 8 is patentably distinguishable over the cited art for at least the reason that it recites, for example, "receiving a request to transmit a self-destructing electronic mail message comprising a message body and a time period within which all instances of the self-destructing electronic mail message should be destroyed." In addition, Claim 19 is patentably distinguishable over the cited art for at least the reason that it recites, for example, "the

request comprising an electronic mail message body and specifying a period of time within which the self-destructing electronic mail message should be destroyed.”

In contrast, *Ogilvie* at least does not disclose destroying all instances of the self-destructing electronic mail message nor does it disclose a request comprising a time period within which all instances of the self-destructing electronic mail message should be destroyed. For example, *Ogilvie* discloses a timestamp representing a limited life span embedded in the message file 206, and if the current time (as indicated by a call made on the recipient's system) indicates that the intended life span has elapsed, then the message file simply deletes itself without displaying the message contents. (See col. 11, lines 43-48.) In *Ogilvie*, all instances of the self-destructing electronic mail message are not destroyed. Moreover, in *Ogilvie*, a request comprising a time period within which all instances of the self-destructing electronic mail message should be destroyed is not disclosed. Rather *Ogilvie* merely discloses destroying one instance.

Ogilvie does not anticipate the claimed invention because *Ogilvie* at least does not disclose “destroying all instances of the self-destructing electronic mail message after the time period has elapsed”, as recited by Claim 1. Furthermore, *Ogilvie* does not anticipate the claimed invention because *Ogilvie* at least does not disclose “receiving a request to transmit a self-destructing electronic mail message comprising a message body and a time period within which all instances of the self-destructing electronic mail message should be destroyed”, as recited by amended Claim 8. Furthermore, *Ogilvie* does not anticipate the claimed invention because *Ogilvie* at least does not disclose “the request comprising an electronic mail message body and specifying a period of time within which the self-destructing electronic mail message should be destroyed”, as

recited by Claim 19. Accordingly, independent Claims 1, 8, and 19 each patentably distinguish the present invention over the cited art, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection of Claims 1, 8, and 19.

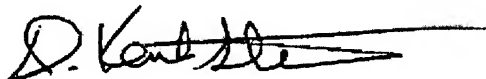
Dependent Claims 2-7, 9-18, and 20-30 are also allowable at least for the reasons described above regarding independent Claims 1, 8, and 19, and by virtue of their respective dependencies upon independent Claims 1, 8, and 19. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection of dependent Claims 2-7, 9-18, and 20-30.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims. The preceding arguments are based only on the arguments in the Office Action, and therefore do not address patentable aspects of the invention that were not addressed by the Examiner in the Office Action. The claims may include other elements that are not shown, taught, or suggested by the cited art. Accordingly, the preceding argument in favor of patentability is advanced without prejudice to other bases of patentability. Furthermore, the Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,



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